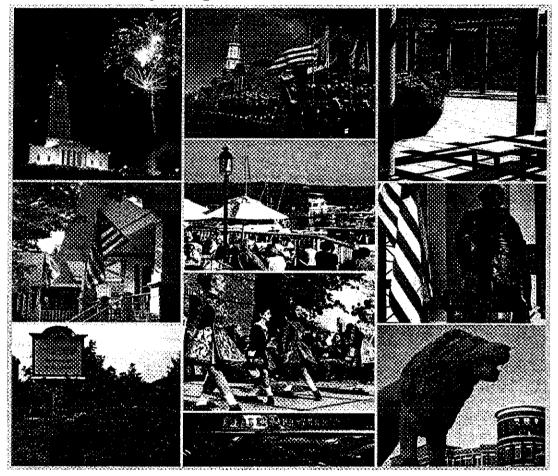
City of Alexandria



FY 2003 City Council Budget Work Session, April 18, 2002



- Planning & Zoning, Sewer Connection Fees
- Housing Trust Fund Contribution
- Towing & Impounding Fees
- Revenue Projection Update
- Budget Process Timetable



- Fees related to land-use applications
- Fees commonly accepted way of financing part of development review process
- Alexandria's Planning & Zoning fees have not been updated since 1992



- Recommended changes to fee structure were based on two studies
- First study, conducted by Delta Associates, provided a comparison of Alexandria's fees with other jurisdictions in N.VA area
- Delta study finding was that Alexandria fees were generally the lowest



- What does it cost?
- Second study, conducted by the Mercer Group, covered an internal analysis of costs of providing services for each part of the review process
- Comprehensive and detailed study provided accounting of direct and indirect costs



- Total cost of Planning & Zoning,
 Transportation & Environmental Services and other Departments in FY 2001 was \$2.8 million
- This excludes costs related to comprehensive planning
- Amount recovered through fees in FY 2001 was \$47,000, less than 2% of total cost



Guidelines for fee review

- Balance between cost recovery of private benefit through fees and public benefit of services that should be paid by the General Fund
- Keep fees below highest fees charged by other jurisdictions in most fee categories
- Retain ease of administration of fee structure
- Avoid adversely impacting small businesses and homeowners



- Proposed new fee schedule meets guidelines criteria
- Using FY 2001 workload statistics and costs, revenue generated by proposed new fee schedule is approximately \$640,200
- Results in cost recovery of 23% by fees,
 77% of costs remain financed by General Fund



Planning & Zoning Fees Project Comparison Analysis

	Backyard Boats	Mill Race	Saul Center	<u>King's</u> Cloister	Bush Hill
Arlington County	\$20,512	\$61,363	\$32,780	\$36,308	\$20,862
Loudoun County	\$19,505	\$56,385	\$19,945	\$11,350	\$23,530
Fairfax County	\$23,730	\$45,296	\$23,441	\$31,896	\$42,748
Prince William	\$9,041	\$85,272	\$32,470	\$10,822	\$40,666
Alexandria- Current	\$980	\$10,012	\$2,605	\$1,200	\$3,249
Alexandria- Proposed	\$13,226	\$59,790	\$29,329	\$9,462	\$37,790



- Accepted/equitable governmental charge
- Development uses system capacity and adds demand
- Fees represent cost of "joining" a sanitary sewer system
- City fees last increased in 1985



- Capital needs have grown since 1997 from \$1.7 million to \$18.3 million in CIP
- \$8.9 million for Holmes Run Trunk Sewer
- \$10.4 million for I&I in 4-Mile Run area
- Further I&I & system expansion capital needs will increase \$18.3 million



- City is only major jurisdiction in the region that does not have a self-supporting sewer system and, as a result, provides tax subsidies from the General Fund
- Negatively impacts debt capacity
- Sanitary sewer connection fees can provide a substantial portion of sewer capital budget



- Current sanitary sewer residential fee is \$630 per unit
- With credits, often only \$100 per unit paid
- Other jurisdictions sanitary sewer fees:

Prince	Fairfax	Arlington	WSSC
William	County	County	
\$9,800	\$5,069	\$4,620	\$5,090



- Proposal is a <u>Draft</u>
- Proposed sanitary sewer fee of \$4,200
- Fee remains the lowest in region
- Multi-family at 80% or \$3,360 per unit
- Meter size scale for other development
- Credit system proposed for revision



- Discussions with the development community underway
- Implementation is key issue
- Development project's lead time
- Date & definition of when new fees apply is the primary feedback to date



Housing Trust Fund

- In 1992, the 50 cent per square foot contribution was established
- Average rent increase since 1992 equals 64%
- An increase to 82 cents gets the City back to 1992 value
- A \$1.00 per square foot rate recovers the lost value as well as provides for expanded affordable housing efforts



Towing & Impounding Fees

Issues:

- Market changes reflected in contract will result in higher costs in FY 2003
 - -\$20,000 of those costs related to High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) towing trips
- Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction causing the City to lose parking area for towed vehicles



Towing & Impounding Fees

Recommendations:

• Increase fees to cover City costs of towing & impounding

	Current	Proposed
Towing charge	\$50	\$75
Impound lot charge	\$40	\$60
Vehicle storage fee	\$20/day	\$30/day

 Begin moving HOV violators to the impound lot for fee recovery & security



General Fund Revenue Projection Update

	FY 2002	FY 2003
Real Estate	-0.3	+0.3
Personal Property	+0.4	+0.4
Penalties & Interest	-	-0.5
Business License	+0.5	+0.5
Other Local Taxes	+0.5	+0.5
State Aid		
HB 599	-0.2	-0.1
Constitutional Officers	-	-0.016
Car Tax	+0.3	+0.3
Other Revenue	+0.1	+0.1
Total (Does not add due to rounding)	+\$1.3	+\$1.4